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Ontario
Ministry of Education

Thomas L. Wells
Minister

Making the most of Night-school Studies

Have you ever driven past your neighbourhood school in the evening and noticed that all the classroom lights were on? It may *not* have been because the janitor was working late. Chances are those classrooms were filled with night-school students.

There's no such thing as a *typical* night-school student. Night-school students come from every walk of life and every sort of background. They may be 20 years old, or 65. Some have completed their formal education and some haven't. They attend night school for a variety of reasons. Many of them simply want to learn something new—whether it's weaving, shorthand, yoga, art, auto mechanics, sewing, metalworking, wine-making, or gourmet cooking. The list of possibilities is almost endless.

A night-school course may be taken for the pleasure of learning a new skill, brushing up an old one, or just because it's fun. But you may also take courses that will help you earn a Secondary School Graduation or Honour Graduation Diploma—diplomas that, until now, may have seemed beyond reach.

Education has changed. In the past, when someone dropped out of school, it was assumed that formal education was finished forever. Now, many people are discovering that the door to continuing education is as close as the nearest night-school classroom.

There are no complicated eligibility requirements for those who wish to enrol in evening classes, but final approval of each application rests with the night-school principal.

Students who are already enrolled in day classes at a secondary school may register for evening courses as well but, before doing so, should carefully consider whether or not they can handle the additional work involved. Obtaining advice from their teachers or principal—while not mandatory—is usually a wise precaution in such cases.

Like all Ontario high school students, people who are enrolled in night-school classes must earn 27 credits in order to obtain a Secondary School Graduation Diploma. (A credit isn't the same as a course; some courses are valued at more or less than one full credit.) If you already have some high school education—it doesn't matter where or when you got it—you'll probably be given credit for the courses you successfully completed. If you're not sure whether your previous schooling qualifies—if, for example, you took apprenticeship courses or went to school in

another country—you can find out by getting in touch with your night-school principal. If you don't know the night-school principal's name, you may obtain it by calling your nearest secondary school during regular hours.

If you're *not* interested in earning a diploma, however, most local school boards also offer a wide variety of *non-credit* courses. No matter how much or how little education you've had in the past, you are eligible to take these courses.

In many communities, night-school courses are provided free. In other areas, local school boards may charge a small fee to cover the cost of materials or additional classroom maintenance.

There is a wide variety of subjects from which to choose. Many public libraries keep lists of courses that are being offered locally and can tell you where and when the classes *you'd* like to attend are being held.

Whether you're 20 years old or 65, night-school courses are well worth looking into. So, instead of driving *by* that school tonight, why not drop in and see what's happening? You'll never know what you may be missing until you do.

For further information regarding night-school courses, contact the principal of your nearest secondary school, your local school board office, or one of the regional offices of the Ontario Ministry of Education. The addresses of the regional offices are listed on the back of this brochure.

Central Ontario (491-0330)
Suite 320, Heron's Hill Building
2025 Sheppard Avenue East
Willowdale
M2J 1W4

Eastern Ontario (225-2230)
1825 Woodward Drive
Ottawa
K2C 0R2

Northwestern Ontario (457-1581)
435 James Street South
Thunder Bay
P7E 6E3

Midnorthern Ontario (566-3480)
1349 LaSalle Blvd.
Sudbury
P3A 1Z5

Northeastern Ontario (474-7210)
Transportation and
Communications Building
McKeown Avenue, Box 3020
North Bay
P1B 8K7

Western Ontario (472-1440)
759 Hyde Park Road
London
N6H 3S6